

South Carolina Libraries

Volume 1 | Issue 2

Article 12

June 2015

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Recommended Citation

Geary, Jade (2015) "The Scandalous Lives of Carolina Belles Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster: Flirting with the Enemy by Tom Elmore," *South Carolina Libraries*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 2 , Article 12.

Available at: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/scl_journal/vol1/iss2/12

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Abstract

Jade Geary, MLIS, reviews Tom Elmore's *The Scandalous Lives of Carolina Belles Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster: Flirting with the Enemy*.

Keywords

book reviews, South Carolina, Marie Boozer, Amelia Feaster

The Scandalous Lives of Carolina Belles Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster: Flirting with the Enemy

Tom Elmore

The History Press, 2014, \$19.99

The Scandalous Lives of Carolina Belles Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster: Flirting with the Enemy, written by historian Tom Elmore, is a fascinating historical review of Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster. Elmore's history background is apparent throughout the book as he does an amazing job presenting Marie's and Amelia's lives. Elmore holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from the University of South Carolina and is the author of *Columbia Civil War Landmarks* and *A Carnival of Destruction: Sherman's Invasion of South Carolina*. *The Scandalous Lives of Carolina Belles Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster: Flirting with the Enemy* is a look in to the lives of two nineteenth century women who were frequently gossiped about. It quickly becomes apparent that there are few facts available about these women and that many of their stories are based on hearsay. In Elmore's book, he brings to light the little truths available about these women, as well as the abundance of gossip that surrounds them. Amelia Feaster is the mother of Marie Boozer and they both have scandalous stories that surround them. From mysterious deaths to assisting union soldiers, these women were the talk of the town. Elmore first learned about Marie Boozer when working on his book *A Carnival of Destruction: Sherman's Invasion of South Carolina* and began to gather more information on her over the years. He originally wrote an article, "Lurid Legends of a Wayward Woman," that dealt with Marie Boozer's life but knew he always wanted to learn more about her. Elmore does a fantastic job of presenting evidence

about their lives, backing up his information with facts, and debunking the fabrications. Although it seems as if there are very few facts available about these women, Elmore does his best to present every factual shred of evidence he can find. Throughout the book, Elmore frequently makes Marie Boozer and Amelia Feaster relatable to the everyday reader. Elmore even compares these women to Kim Kardashian and Kris Jenner. This book is an enjoyable read and would be appropriate for anyone interested in learning more about the Civil War era and South Carolina history. This book would make a great addition to an academic or public library and is most appropriate for teens through adults.

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